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Agenda item 5 (j)
SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN AND
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS:
CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Progress of the World Decade for Cultural Development during the period 1992-1993

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

* A/49/50/Rev.1.

Annex

[Original: Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish]

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

Recommendations of the Intergovernmental Committee of the World Decade for Cultural Development at its fourth session

1. Recommendation concerning the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Decade for Cultural Development during the period 1992-1993 a/

The Intergovernmental Committee of the World Decade for Cultural Development,

Recalling resolution 3.12 adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its twenty-seventh session, entitled "Integral study of the Silk Roads: roads of dialogue",

Recalling also that at the same session the General Conference took note of, and allocated funds for, a resolution related to developing tourism circuits based on several pilgrim routes, and requested the Director-General to formulate a special regional programme for fostering and developing environmentally-friendly tourism along ancient and medieval pilgrim routes, especially in South Asia, to be developed later into a regional programme covering East Asia, Central Asia and South-East Asia,

Noting with satisfaction paragraphs 75 to 80 of document CLT-94/CONF.202/3 of 25 February 1994, which report on the implementation of the above-mentioned major intercultural project under the World Decade for Cultural Development,

1. Invites the Director-General to prepare, for consideration at the next meeting of the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Committee of the World Decade for Cultural Development and, if appropriate, at the next meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of the World Decade for Cultural Development itself a document evaluating the fall-out from each of the four Silk Route expeditions successfully organized under the auspices of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as well as indicating the financial arrangements made for each expedition;

2. Recognizes that this experience would be of value in other major intercultural projects during the remaining part of the World Decade for Cultural Development;

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a/ See A/49/159/Add.1-E/1994/62/Add.1.

3. Invites the Director-General to include in his report details of a plan to use the Silk Roads to best advantage by developing a programme of environment-friendly cultural tourism in cooperation with the World Tourism Organization;

4. Also invites the Director-General to inform the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Committee of the World Decade for Cultural Development on progress with regard to: (a) developing a tourist circuit based on pilgrim routes in South Asia; and (b) mobilizing financial resources from the budget of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization as well as extrabudgetary resources for the next Silk Route expedition planned.

2. Recommendation concerning the follow-up to the World Decade for Cultural Development

The Intergovernmental Committee of the World Decade for Cultural Development,

Recalling that, after a slow and difficult start, the World Decade for Cultural Development has registered noteworthy progress in the course of the last biennium and found its cruising speed,

Noting with great satisfaction that various agencies and bodies of the United Nations system have participated in various ways in the implementation of the Decade, but regretting that the overall commitment to the Decade shown by these institutions remains very inadequate,

Welcoming the active commitment to the Decade of many non-governmental organizations,

Welcoming also the establishment in many Member States of national committees for the Decade, and recalling the importance of these structures for making decision-makers and civil society alive to the objectives of the Decade,

Considering the extent of the results to date and the need to ensure not only their development but also their continuation and long-term consolidation,

Observing none the less that the first objective of the Decade, the acknowledgement of the cultural dimension of development, is still often poorly understood or interpreted, probably because what is involved is a new multidisciplinary approach having numerous implications, the full potential of which can be grasped only through explanation and demonstration over a long period of time,

Noting that this ignorance of the objectives of the Decade is often reflected in projects that are mainly backward-looking, instead of innovative and forward-looking, and also in projects promoting the development of culture, instead of harnessing culture as a vector of development,

Recommends that the Director-General do everything possible to follow-up the World Decade for Cultural Development, and in particular to place on the

agenda of the extraordinary session of the Intergovernmental Committee of the World Decade for Cultural Development in 1995 an item relating to consideration of the possibility of a follow-up to the Decade.

3. Recommendation concerning participation by the excluded and the deprived in cultural and economic life

The Intergovernmental Committee of the World Decade for Cultural Development,

Recalling that the main objective of the World Decade for Cultural Development is to promote a fuller acknowledgement of the cultural dimension of development,

Recalling that cultural development forms part of all development efforts,

Noting with concern that the population groups excluded from society, within the meaning of United Nations General Assembly resolution 46/121 of 17 December 1991, are hardly affected by efforts to achieve development and that their situation calls for sustained attention and effort in every field,

Stressing the importance of culture in ensuring full and complete participation by such population groups in the social, economic and cultural development of their country,

Recommends that the Director-General encourage States members of the Intergovernmental Committee of the World Decade for Cultural Development, organizations of the United Nations system and all those involved in the Decade, particularly non-governmental organizations:

(a) To give their full support to such excluded population groups so that they may attain the objectives set out in the resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly establishing an International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (resolution 47/196) of 22 December 1992);

(b) To promote, during the second half of the Decade, the implementation of measures to ensure increased participation in cultural life by those economically and culturally deprived or excluded from such participation.

4. Recommendation concerning the study of cultural factors influencing development

The Intergovernmental Committee of the World Decade for Cultural Development,

Bearing in mind United Nations General Assembly resolution 45/189 of 21 December 1990, inviting the regional commissions, in consultation with Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to carry out, within existing resources, an evaluation of the cultural factors influencing development as a potential creator of jobs and generator of income,

Bearing in mind United Nations General Assembly resolution 46/157 of 19 December 1991, inviting the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to provide, in preparation for the global mid-term review, for an evaluation of the cultural factors influencing development as a potential creator of jobs and generator of income, to be carried out by the regional commissions in 1993,

Considering that identification of the influence of cultural factors on the creation of wealth, which is the subject of the evaluations requested, would make an important contribution to the programme of the World Decade for Cultural Development,

Noting that only one regional economic and social commission of the United Nations has carried out the evaluation requested,

Recommends that the regional economic and social commissions undertake the evaluations requested by 1 March 1997 so that their findings may be included in the final report on the World Decade for Cultural Development.